

# Steps To Building A Strong Church Series

Step #12: Be Steadfast



Discovering God's Word  
Bible Study Series

## Steps To Building A Strong Church Series

# Step #12: Be Steadfast

Learn some areas in which local churches must be steadfast and how they can be steadfast

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### Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW304

Written by Eric Krieg

**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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Steps To Building A Strong Church  
Series

# Step #12: Be Steadfast

God wants every church to be a strong church. Throughout this series of lessons, we have now discussed eleven steps that will help accomplish this goal. But, in order for a church to be a strong church, it must also be steadfastly committed to serving the Lord throughout all of the difficulties that are experienced.

It is inevitable that difficulties will arise from time-to-time within and surrounding a local church. These things will put the congregation to the test to see whether it will remain faithful or not. You see, Satan does not want any church to be a strong church. Instead, he wants churches to go through the motions of serving God, but not to be steadfast in their commitment to serving God in all things.

So, Satan puts pressure on local churches whenever and however he can. He tries to pressure congregations through outside forces, like persecution. But, he also tries to infiltrate local churches (even elderships) by getting them to accept false doctrine, by getting them to tolerate sin in the congregation, by causing division, etc. And, not only is he trying to infiltrate and attack the local church (collectively), but he is trying to attack each and every member of the church. He is willing to tear down the local church one member at a time!

Therefore, our steadfastness will impact the strength of the local church (both collectively and individually). If we are not steadfast, we will cave to the pressure to conform to the world. If we are not steadfast, we will become discouraged from doing

good. If we are not steadfast, we will not be able to overcome the “bumps” and “potholes” that are on the road to much better things in Heaven!

Consider 1 Corinthians 15:58. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” Because there is victory in Jesus Christ (verse 57), we must be steadfast. This is further explained by the other two terms used in the verse: Immovable and always abounding. We must not let go of the hope that we have for eternal life in Heaven and we must always strive to accomplish the work of the Lord, no matter what difficulties we confront during our earthly lives.

In this lesson, I want us to consider the subject of steadfastness so that we will overcome the attacks of the devil, both individually and collectively. Our goals in this lesson are: (1) To recognize some areas in which we must be steadfast. And, (2) to understand some keys to remaining steadfast.

## ***Areas In Which We Must Be Steadfast***

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The devil is at work in this world. 1 Peter 5:8-9 instructs Christians, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” Yet, the Bible also tells us that “we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians 2:11). Therefore, let’s consider some areas in which Satan wants to attack us and get us *not* to serve God faithfully. These areas will require steadfastness in serving God.

### **Trials**

There are many things that put our faith and commitment to serving God to the test – both individually and collectively. Whether individually or collectively, we experience difficult and trying

times whenever we face the constant pressure of dealing with health issues or the deaths of those we love. Whether individually or collectively, we experience difficult and trying times whenever our finances are not what we desire them to be. Whether individually or collectively, we face difficult and trying times whenever we deal with various burdens of life.

The apostle Paul experienced trials in his own life. Although he experienced trials of many sorts, just consider the “thorn in the flesh” that tried to hinder him from serving God. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 says, “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

## **Temptations**

Not only are there many obstacles that we face in trying to serve God faithfully, but there are also many opportunities Satan gives us to sin against God. In fact, in all of these trials that we face, there is an opportunity provided by Satan for us to stop serving God according to God's instructions. However, there are also ways Satan tries to appeal to us directly through our own earthly desires. These temptations work on us both individually and collectively. He tempts us to be conformed to the ways of the world. He tempts us to follow the lusts of our eyes. He tempts us to follow the lusts of our flesh. And, He tempts us to follow the pride of life.

James 1:14-15 teaches us how Satan works to tempt us. “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” Although Satan may appeal to a different fleshly desire in each one of us, he knows the areas he can be most

successful in. And, he will attack us as often as he can to try and lure us away from God through these physical desires. For, such physical desires are of this world rather than of God (see 1 John 2:15-17).

## **Persecutions**

There can be no doubt that Satan attacks men and women of faith. He wants to use every tool at his disposal to get us to forsake the Lord. So, there are times that he uses pressure that is directly connected with serving God. Sometimes he causes Christians to be alienated from their family members or friends because they are Christians. Sometimes he causes Christians to be mistreated in the workplace because they are Christians. Sometimes he causes churches to be slandered in the community or threatened because they are Christians. Sometimes he even causes people to be physically violent toward and kill those who are Christians.

Yet, Jesus taught His followers that this would happen. John 15:18-19 records Jesus as saying, “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” Satan wants to foster a hatred of those who are Christians in the hearts of those who are not. He wants to punish Christians for believing God and for doing what God says. And, he accomplishes this in many ways.

## **The doctrine of Christ**

Doctrine is an essential part of the Christian's faith. For, if we do not believe the right doctrines we will not be able to practice the things that are pleasing to God. Therefore, the devil would like to convince those who are Christians to believe in doctrines that are foreign to the teachings of the New Testament. This is true with regard to individual Christians and entire congregations. The false doctrines that are in this world are far too numerous to list here. But, they include false doctrines about God, about Jesus, about the Bible, about sin, about salvation, about the church, about living as a Christian, etc.

The devil knows how dangerous false doctrines are to every soul. Not only do the doctrines

destroy those who believe and follow them, but they are also very deceptive. Through false doctrines, Satan convinces many people to follow him while they believe they are following Christ. 2 Peter 2:1-3 explains. “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.”

### **Good works**

Satan wants individual Christians and entire congregations to become discouraged in doing good works. He wants Christians to misplace priorities so that other things will be accomplished rather than the works that will be most pleasing to God. He wants us to feel as if nothing good is being accomplished by the things that we are doing so that we will give up. He does not want people to be involved in teaching the gospel to those who are lost, serving others, studying the Bible, worshiping God, helping those who are in need, showing hospitality, visiting the sick, the widows, the orphans, those in prison, etc.

Galatians 6:9 says, “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” The implication of this verse is that it is possible to grow weary in doing good. The devil is working hard to discourage and distract us from doing the good things God desires us to do every opportunity he gets. He does not want us to keep our focus on the eternal reward of Heaven and to have an easy path or sense of accomplishment in serving the Lord.

### **Prayer**

Prayer is a powerful tool for Christians and local churches to use in combating the work of the devil – and the devil knows it! So, he is working to discourage us from praying. He wants us to think that God does not hear our prayers whenever He does not answer our prayers according to what we ask. He wants us to believe that there is no point in praying

fervently and frequently. In fact, He even wants us to begin to doubt in God and in His power.

Romans 12:12 instructs those who are Christians to be “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.” Again, the fact that we must continue steadfastly in prayer implies that there are things threatening our commitment to prayer. For instance, I think about the apostle Paul and his thorn in the flesh on this point (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Although we do not know what his thorn in the flesh was, we do know that he pleaded with the Lord three times that it would be removed. However, the Lord did not remove it. Instead, it was the will of God to make Paul rely on the strength that comes from God in order to overcome. And, there is no indication that this one situation ever shook Paul’s faith in God or in the power of prayer!

### **Love**

God is a God of love who wants His people to love. But, Satan is described as “a murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44). Satan recognizes that if people choose always to love, they will follow God. So, if he can convince people *not* to be steadfastly devoted to showing love, he can win people over to his side. Therefore, he works tirelessly to get people to choose not to love God, not to love their spouses and children, not to love those who are lost and headed for certain destruction in Hellfire, not to love their brothers and sisters in Christ, not to love their neighbors, and not to love their enemies. Certainly, this is true on both an individual and collective level.

For instance, one of the most sure-fire ways Satan can disrupt the steadfast devotion to serving the Lord within a local church is to cause strife, contention, and division. When these are present within a local church, it hinders people not only from fulfilling their responsibilities toward one another but also from loving the Lord, accomplishing the work the church should be doing (like teaching the gospel to the lost), etc. So, Ephesians 4:1-3 says, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the

bond of peace.” Once more, the instruction to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace implies that the devil is trying to destroy the peace and unity that should exist in Christ. So, Christians must work at loving one another in order to maintain peace and unity!

## ***Keys To Remaining Steadfast***

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I’m sure there are other areas in which we need to remain steadfast. Regardless of the threats that we face, we must remain steadfast, be immovable, and always abound in the work of the Lord – individually and collectively. But, the question is *how* do we accomplish this? Fortunately, the Bible gives us some keys that will help us be steadfast in serving the Lord, both individually and collectively.

### **Remember that God is greater than Satan**

Whenever we experience the difficult circumstances in life that try to pull us away from serving God, we can feel as if there is no hope. Yet, we must always remember that God is greater than Satan. Consider three passages that will help us remember this key lesson.

First, remember Job. Whenever Satan wanted to test Job, he had to get permission from God (see Job chapters 1 and 2). He could not just choose to do anything that he desired. And, whenever God told Satan not to injure or kill Job, Satan could not go against God’s limits. So, even though Satan put Job through some extremely difficult and trying times, God was still in control and had more power than Satan!

Second, consider 1 Corinthians 10:13. “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” Even though the temptations we face often seem like they are stronger than we can endure, God assures us that they are not! There is *always* a way of escape from any

temptation we face – because God is greater than Satan.

Third, consider James 4:7. “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” Satan cannot tempt you endlessly. Although he will tempt you often, God does not allow him to keep such pressure on you that you cannot endure it. Instead, God promises that when you choose to obey God and resist the temptations of the devil, the devil will flee from you. This, again, is because God is greater than Satan! Therefore, nothing that you face in life is so difficult that it puts you in a lose-lose situation. There is always an opportunity for you to win and be steadfastly committed to the Lord! You simply must find and take that path that God has provided you with.

### **Remember that trials can make us stronger**

The trials that we face are not *just* tests of our faith. They are also opportunities to become stronger. Although they are not pleasant to go through, God promises that they can result in good if we are faithful through them.

James 1:2-4 says, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

Similarly, Romans 5:3-5 says, “And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

The testing of our faith is a tremendous opportunity to show how much we trust in God. And, these tests can produce great benefits in our spiritual lives that will help us to endure future tests. Notice that the testing of our faith can produce a greater ability to persevere through future tests. That is, we will become stronger in our faith and commitment to serving the Lord. Then, we will develop greater Christian character that has God’s approval. And, our hope will become more intense and we will be rejoicing in our hope with greater frequency. Overall,

we will be able to find joy in these trying times because we know that they will help us to serve God more effectively in the future.

## **Remember that others have endured hardship**

Whenever we are going through any kind of difficulty in living for the Lord, it is helpful and encouraging to know that there have been others who have remained steadfastly committed to serving the Lord through these difficult times. In fact, even in 1 Peter 5:8-9 (as quoted earlier in this lesson), we saw that Peter encouraged Christians to resist the devil, remaining steadfast in the faith, “knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” It is strengthening to know that others are enduring or have endured the same kinds of difficulties that we face (and, some, even more difficult trials).

Consider how we can gain encouragement from the examples of faithful men and women in the Scriptures. Romans 15:4 says, “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” And, couple this with what we can read in Hebrews 12:1-2 says, “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Think about the many examples of those who have faithfully endured their trials, temptations, and persecutions faithfully. Think about Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Samuel, David, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego, Paul, Peter, John, etc., etc., etc. Surely, these all faced plenty of difficulty throughout life on this earth. But, they were committed to serving the Lord. Therefore, we can learn from these individuals who demonstrated what faith through difficult circumstances looks like. And, we can be encouraged that if they could remain faithful to the Lord, we can as well!

Then, we must always look to Jesus. Although these individuals were faithful to the Lord most of the time, they were not perfect individuals. The perfect one is Jesus Christ. He lived on earth and faced all of the difficulties life could throw at Him. In fact, the world hated Him (John 15:18-19). So, the world put Him to death, even though He had committed no sin. Therefore, no matter what kind of hardship we face in life, we can always look boldly to Jesus Christ to see the perfect example of how to navigate through difficulties with a steadfast commitment to the Lord.

## **Remember that there is victory in Jesus**

One of the reasons that we often become anxious and fearful whenever we go through difficult circumstances is that we do not know how things will turn out. But, those who are Christians should never have this fear. You see, the Christian should have complete assurance that God wins and that those who choose to follow the Lord will also be overwhelming victors.

1 Corinthians 15:57 says, “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Then, because of this victory, those who are Christians are encouraged to be steadfast, immovable, and always abound in the work of the Lord. This is because their labor for the Lord is not in vain (verse 58).

Therefore, we should always be assured that no matter how difficult the tests of life are to endure, God will always win. In fact, the *only* victory that God has promised is through Jesus Christ. He is the only one who has provided victory over the great enemy of death. It is through His resurrection from the dead that those who have experienced physical death will raise from the dead – either to a resurrection of life or a resurrection of condemnation (John 5:28-29).

For those who stay committed to serving the Lord, they will experience the resurrection of life. They are the ones who will be “more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37). So, this ought to provide the needed encouragement as we go through the difficult times in life, to recognize that we are on the winning side as long as we stay

steadfastly committed to serving the Lord. All other responses to the difficulties of life will lead to defeat.

## **Remember to put on the whole armor of God**

God has not left His people to fend for themselves in their spiritual war against Satan and his allies. Instead, God has given His people all of the armor they need to be successful in fighting off all the attacks Satan hurls at them and remaining faithful to the Lord. This armor is identified in Ephesians 6:10-18.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

Notice the frequency with which this passage assures that we will be able to “stand” against the attacks and schemes of the devil. This armor is simple and effective. Truth, righteousness, the preparation of the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the word of God. If we will put *all* of this armor on, Satan will not be able to defeat us. We will stand strong in the Lord and accomplish all of the works God wants us to accomplish for Him.

## **Remember that we are not alone**

Loneliness is one of the greatest tools the devil can use to defeat someone. Although the great

lion may charge into a whole flock of Christians (i.e. a local church), he can try to isolate just one of Christ’s sheep. He wants us to feel hopeless. He wants us to feel as if no one cares. He wants us to feel like our faithful service to God does not matter. And, if we accept Satan’s lie that tells us we are all alone, we may neglect to faithfully serve God.

However, the Bible teaches us that we are never alone in serving God! First and foremost, we must recognize that God is with us as we serve Him. Whenever Jesus issued the “Great Commission” to His followers, He said, “and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). Then, the Hebrew writer said, “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’” (Hebrews 13:5-6). We are never truly alone! We always can approach the throne of God through prayer. And, God promises to hear us and says that our prayers are powerful whenever they are according to His will!

Then, we are never alone because we have brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus who are going through the same kinds of things we are enduring. Again, 1 Peter 5:9 encouraged those Christians who were enduring the attacks of Satan to recognize that brethren throughout the world were enduring the same struggles.

But, it is not just encouraging to know that there are others who are striving to live faithfully to the Lord. Instead, God expects those who are Christians to help each other through their times of struggles. For instance, Hebrews 3:12-13 says, “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ are expected to be working every single day to help each other overcome the attacks they face from the devil! We should care about one another so much that we are willing to make sacrifices for the good of each other.

## **Remember that all things work together for good**

As Christians, we can be steadfast in doing all the good things God wants us to do because there is a solid hope that we can cling to. “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast” (Hebrews 6:19). We never have to worry about how things will end, even though we may face very difficult circumstances during our earthly lives.

God promises us, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). But, this is *not* assurance that our physical situations will improve. Actually, God does not promise us that we will have all the things that we want or desire while we live on this earth. Instead, this is a spiritual promise with two applications.

First, those who love God can know that all things will work out for their spiritual benefit in the sense that they will become stronger whenever they endure the difficulties of life. This is just as we saw in Romans 5:3-5 and James 1:2-4. We know that everything we go through in life will help us to become more of who we should be whenever we are faithful to the Lord. And, we will be stronger to endure the next trial of life.

Second, those who love God can know that all things will work out for their benefit in the sense that they will go to Heaven. Even if the trials of this life result in physical death, the Christian can know that everything will be wonderful because he/she is assured of the fact that Heaven is waiting and is promised to those who are faithful to God. Again, the Christian knows that all of his/her steadfast labor for the Lord is *not* in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58). There will be a great reward!

## **Remember that we will reap what we sow**

Those who just live in the moments of life will often choose not to remain faithful to God. This is because the moments of life often offer us more pleasure to rebel against God than to remain steadfastly committed to serving Him. However, this short-sighted approach to life will not be rewarded eternally. Instead, it is only those who live their lives

with the recognition that God will reward those who are faithful in serving Him and punish those who live to please themselves who will stay focused on serving God.

Galatians 6:7-10 says, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

If we live to please our own fleshly desires, we will reap eternal punishment in Hellfire. However, if we live our lives to please God, we will reap eternal life in Heaven. So, rather than getting caught up in the moments of life, we must keep this perspective. And, we must remember that God sees everything about our earthly lives. Proverbs 15:3 says, “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.”

Therefore, as we recognize that we will reap according to what we sow, we must be steadfastly committed to doing good works. We should never take our eyes off the prize of eternal life in Heaven so as to become weary and give up on doing the good God wants us to be doing – for any reason! Instead, we should keep focusing on our opportunities to do good and determine to make the best use of those opportunities in the Lord’s service, knowing that God sees and He will reward us some day!

## **Remember the cost of falling**

Those who are Christians must determine to remain steadfast because of what it means if they do not. For, even though we have become Christians in the past, it is possible to fall from God’s grace and be eternally lost in Hell. For instance, the apostle Paul told the Christians in Galatia, “You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace” (Galatians 5:4).

The Hebrew writer also warned Christians about falling away from the Lord whenever he said

that vengeance belongs to the Lord and that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (see Hebrews 10:26-39). So, just as Paul promised in Galatians 6:8, we will reap corruption if we sow to the flesh – even if the sowing is after we have become Christians.

Think about the church in Sardis. Although they had become Christians and had a name that claimed them to be servants of God, they were not actually serving Him faithfully. Instead, God saw their works and knew that they were spiritually dead (see Revelation 3:1-6). Then, Jesus told them, “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels” (verse 5). Therefore, it is entirely possible to have our names written in the Book of Life – and then be removed from it if we are not steadfastly committed to serving Him!

2 Peter 2:20-22 comments on this kind of unfaithfulness in the following way, demonstrating how God views this lack of steadfastness. “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: ‘A dog returns to his own vomit,’ and, ‘a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.’”

## ***Conclusion***

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Are you being steadfast in the work of the Lord? Are you steadfast in your faith? Are you steadfast in doing good works? Are you steadfast in doing your part as a member of the local church? If every member of the local church will be steadfastly committed to serving the Lord and doing good, the local church will be made stronger!

As we close this series of lessons, we must evaluate ourselves both individually and collectively. Collectively, each local church should evaluate itself to see how strong it is and where it needs to improve. Then, individually, each Christian must also be evaluating himself/herself to see the areas he/she needs to improve in serving the Lord and as a member of the local church. If a local church wants to be as strong as it can possibly be in serving the Lord, it must take these steps. Although there may be others steps that could be discussed, I hope that these have helped you to grow in Jesus Christ and be stronger in your labor as a local church! Remember, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13)!

## ***Study Questions***

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How is being steadfast crucial to the strength and well-being of any local church?

### **1) Areas In Which We Must Be Steadfast**

How does Satan try to hinder us from serving God through trials?

How does Satan try to hinder us from serving God through temptations?

How does Satan try to hinder us from serving God through persecution?

How does Satan try to hinder us from holding to the doctrine of Christ?

How will remembering that we are not alone help us remain steadfast?

How does Satan try to hinder us from doing good works?

How will remembering that all things work together for good help us remain steadfast?

How does Satan try to hinder us from praying to God?

How will remembering that we will reap what we sow help us remain steadfast?

How does Satan try to hinder us from showing love?

How will remembering the cost of falling help us remain steadfast?

## **2. Keys To Remaining Steadfast**

How will remembering that God is greater than Satan help us remain steadfast?

How will remembering that trial can make us stronger help us remain steadfast?

How will remembering that others have endured hardship help us remain steadfast?

How will remembering that there is victory in Jesus help us remain steadfast?

How will remembering to put on the whole armor of God help us remain steadfast?